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## **The Religious Education Association.**

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DURING the three months which have now passed since this Association was created by the Chicago Convention (February 10-12), much progress of a fundamental kind has been made. The Executive Board which was elected by the Convention has held weekly meetings almost throughout the period, for laying the foundations of the work which the Association has undertaken. The election of officers has been nearly completed. It will be remembered that the Convention appointed the President, sixteen Vice-Presidents, twenty Directors, and the Executive Board. Almost without exception the men who were elected at the Convention have accepted their appointments, thereby becoming permanent officers of the Association. The Executive Board has filled in the few vacancies. In addition, the Board has had the duty of appointing one Director for each state, territory, district, and province of the United States and Canada; also the election of the officers and executive committees for the fifteen departments of the Association. Each department has a President, Recording Secretary, Executive Secretary, and from three to seven additional persons who with the officers constitute the Executive Committee of the department. More than 200 officers have already accepted election. The entire list of officers will be given in the volume of Proceedings. The sixty members of the Council have not yet been appointed.

More than twelve hundred members of the Association have already been enrolled. The list of members will also be published in the volume of Proceedings, where it will appear that the movement has secured the active co-operation of many of the most eminent and able religious educators and workers of the country. With such a force to advocate the ideas and to inaugurate the plans of the Association, success is not only assured, but is to be widespread and rapid. The invitation to active membership remains open to all persons engaged in religious and moral instruction of any kind, and the associate membership is open to all others who, though not actively engaged in such work, are interested in it and desire to promote it.

The volume of Proceedings is just ready. It contains the addresses in full which were given at the recent Convention, the minutes of the Convention, the lists of officers and members of the

Association, and other information concerning the movement. It is a book of nearly four hundred pages, well printed and bound. Each member of the Association will receive one copy free. Copies of the Proceedings are furnished to the general public at \$1 postpaid.<sup>1</sup> It is safe to say that there is no book upon the subject of religious and moral education which will be found more useful or more stimulating than this one. Further, all persons who desire to know really what the Association stands for, and has undertaken, will find the necessary information in this volume.

The specific plans for carrying forward the work of the Association under its several departments are being worked out by the newly elected departmental officers, with the assistance of the Executive Board. It will be clear to all that the laying of the foundations for the work of the Association must be done, not hastily, but with the greatest care. It is desired that the wisdom of all members of the Association, and indeed, of any others who wish to make suggestions, be united in determining the plans for the work of the several departments. We may anticipate that these departments, or several of them, will in the near future make some recommendations which will be of immediate service to workers in their several lines. The demand for assistance from the Association to religious and moral education in many branches is widespread and insistent. The officers of the Association promise that the preparations will be carried forward as rapidly as circumstances permit.

It has been voted by the Executive Board that a meeting of the Directors of the Association, who number nearly one hundred, shall be held in Boston on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 7, during the annual convention of the National Educational Association. The very low railroad rates which can be had for attendance upon that convention, and the fact that the convention meets this year in the East, makes it particularly convenient and appropriate that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Religious Education Association should convene at that time. It is hoped that the Directors may be able to decide upon some specific statements and plans by which the work of the Association can be put more clearly before the public, and can be entered upon in a large way. It is expected also that calls will be

<sup>1</sup>Orders for copies of the Proceedings may be sent to the Religious Education Association, Executive Office, 153 LaSalle St., Chicago. One dollar bills may be sent in letters with comparative safety. Checks, drafts, and money orders may be made payable to James H. Eckels, treasurer.

issued for several of the departments to hold meetings in connection with the N. E. A. convention in Boston.

In every part of the country the Religious Education Association has become a prominent theme of discussion, not only between individuals, but in ministerial conferences, and at many gatherings where religious and moral interests are discussed. It is gratifying that the movement has already awakened such a large interest. Earnest inquiries from many directions and from many organizations are already pouring in upon the Association for authorized representatives to set forth the ideas and plans of the movement. Many officers and members of the Association have already made such presentations of the movement in their own and other localities. The Executive Board desires to respond to all such requests as far as possible, and indeed, invites requests of this kind.

Viewing the progress made during the last three months, it is clear that the Association has established itself in the minds and hearts of thousands of persons engaged in all branches of religious and moral education. The future certainly is promising for the realization of the hopes of those who have anticipated most from this great undertaking.